



19 May 2006

### Memorial Day Safety

1. Memorial Day is a time to honor and commemorate our veterans who died defending our country and our freedom. On this Memorial Day, we will again add more names to the roster of fallen heroes. I ask all of you to please take a moment to remember all those who have given their lives in the name of freedom and democracy. Our gratitude and our prayers are with them and their families on this solemn remembrance.
2. Memorial Day also marks the traditional beginning of the summer season and a time for outdoor fun, travel, and family activities. Many members of the USFK team will take advantage of the 4-day weekend to travel around the country and enjoy the beautiful sights in the Republic of Korea. Others will participate in outdoor activities such as mountain climbing, hiking, cycling, water sports, and other athletic events. The potential for off-duty accidents and injuries during this time will increase significantly. We must make every effort to ensure that the joy of this holiday period does not turn into tragedy. I ask you to watch out for each other and to work together as a team to ensure one another's safety.
3. Leaders must reiterate the importance of safety awareness and education prior to Memorial Day weekend and the summer season. Leaders should target alcohol use, indiscipline, driver's training, and enforcing the buddy systems and standards for largest impact.
4. Our goal is *No Loss of Life* at any time. We can achieve this goal if every member of the USFK Team—Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Civilian Employees, Contractors, and Family Members—makes a commitment to safety over the upcoming holiday and throughout the summer. First-line leaders must make the difference with "*Under the Oak Tree Counseling*" by making a verbal contract with their subordinates on behavior and off duty discipline. The chain of command is responsible to effectively supervise and enforce standards. I am convinced that we can minimize risks and save lives by applying the composite risk management process proactively throughout the chain of command.
5. I call on everyone to maintain vigilance on and off-duty and take time to review your unit summer safety campaign. Visit the USFK Safety Web site at <http://safety.korea.army.mil/> for more information.
6. All of us are responsible for looking out for one another. Our tactical actions impact strategically on the wellness of our Alliance with the Republic of Korea. Teamwork counts! Keep up your guard and make this holiday period and summer safe.
7. We go together!

B. B. BELL  
General, US Army  
Commander

**FREEDOM'S FRONTIER!**

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